THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Ranjit Sagar Dam in Punjab is in final stages of completion.

(b) According to the project authorities, a total expenditure of about Rs. 3300 crores has been incurred upto March, 2000. The latest estimated cost of the project is Rs. 3433 crores at April 1999 price level.

(c) and (d) The project will stabilize irrigation over 3.16 lakh hectares of land in Punjab and 32,000 hectares of land in Jammu & Kashmir after the completion of Shahpur Kandi Project downstream.

Exploration of irrigation capacity

†5479. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored the possibilities for increasing the irrigation capacity in the coming years keeping in view of the irrigation demand in the country;

(b) if so, whether an estimate of the demand of irrigation capacity by the year 2025 has been made; and

(c) the projects formulated by Government to meet the said requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State Governments formulate plans and take up irrigation projects from their own plan allocations and as per their own priorities. However, keeping in view the need to cover additional areas under irrigation, the Government of India has also taken/ proposed to take various policy and programme initiatives. These include revision of National Water Policy, Command Area Development Programme, preparation of National Perspectives for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit areas, water management practices, promoting efficient and economic use of water for various purposes, artificial recharge of ground water, emphasis on water conservation through various methods including use of latest technologies and peoples' participation in management of water for diverse uses.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.